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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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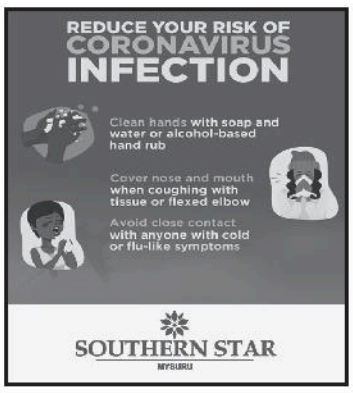

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Cops of Corona: Police force in Mysuru battle Coronavirus

Theirs, however, is a thankless job with increased lockdown violations

Mysuru, Apr. 13- We are at a critical stage in fight against Coronavirus as fears of community transmissions rise. During lockdown, frontline workers are still going out every day to win what one doctor described as "a war India can't afford to lose".

As our healthcare system may not be able to cope with a massive outbreak, we are pinning our hopes on containing the outbreak on social distancing and a complete lockdown. And the success is down to the efforts of unknown but selfless workers including doctors, nurses, paramedics, Police and rubbish collectors who are braving grave odds every day.

The Police are playing a more pivotal role in enforcing new health and social regulations while ensuring society continues to function in a civil manner. The Police have set up dedicated resources to assist in containing the virus. These include major incident rooms and operations and specific new taskforces.

Till now, Mysuru Police used to chase robbers, wrestle rowdies and ensure the safety and convenience of VIPs. Their roles have been changed overnight and they are now chasing people who violate home quarantining and helping the District Administration to enforce the lockdown, ensuring that the Government's advisories on COVID-19 are followed in letter and spirit.

However, from the day of Janata Curfew announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prepare the people for weeks of lockdown, The Police force have had hardly any rest. Rain or shine, day or night or even during the unearthly hours, the Police force is on the streets and our neighbourhoods taking violators to task. In other words, the Police are protecting our lives, without taking care of their own. But a Policeman's is a thankless job as people continue to flout lockdown rules.

(See POLICE on page 4)

Many in Mysuru are abandoning pets on streets

Mysuru, Apr. 13- Within days of COVID-19 outbreak, hundreds of pets became strays. Some pet owners have been abandoning their pets fearing that Coronavirus could spread fromanimals to them. Call it inhuman or misinformed cruelty, several well educated and influential persons have been abandoning their pets on streets, when nobody is watching.

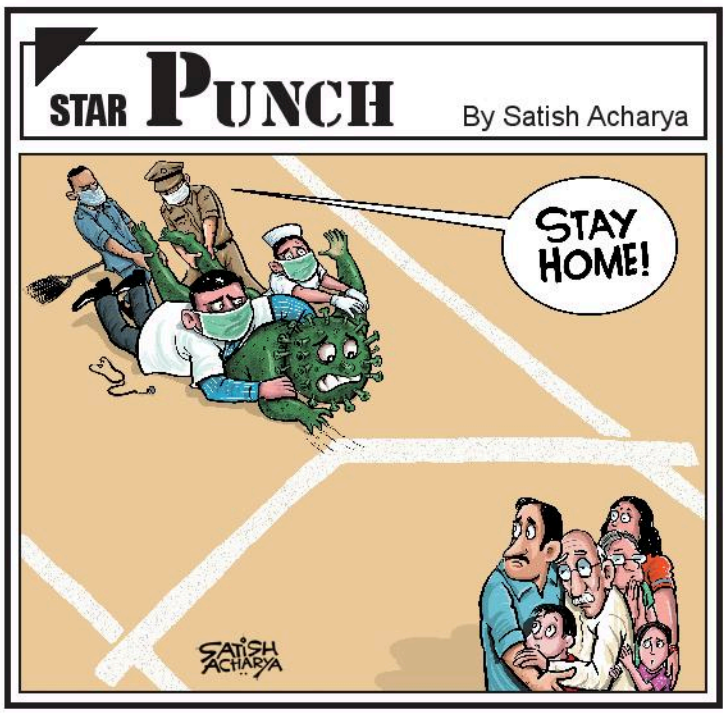
Sadly even imported dog and cat breeds are being abandoned. Taking a serious note of the trend, Karnataka Veterinary Association authorities said that abandoning pets is a criminal offence according to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

Speaking to Star of Mysore, Association President Dr. S.C. Suresh said that there has been no evidence that Covid-19 can be transmitted from pets to humans. There is little evidence that dogs and cats contract COVID-19.

There were few COVID-19 cases involving pets so far. Although human COVID-19 infections are high, the cases among pets are isolated as pets cannot be infected naturally. To date, the source of infection for animals is from humans. While pets can be infected with the coronavirus, it would only cause a mild infection on them. The viral load in the animals is also too low to be transmitted to humans, he added.

Animal Welfare activists say that they have spotted many pedigree dogs wearing belt on their neck in Mysuru roaming around the streets.

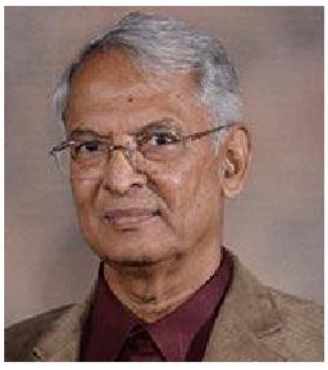
(See MYSURU on page 4)



Lockdown Humour

The Covid Cut

From social distancing to husband distancing!!



By Ashvini Ranjan

Yet again there was no response from Venkatesh of Venkateshwara Hair Cutting Salon where I regularly have my hair cut. Venkatesh, the owner of the salon, generally returns my call within minutes unless he is attending to another client.

He extends me some special privileges either because I am a long-standing customer or because I readily pay the periodical increase for his services even though the numbers of hairs on my head are declining rapidly. More likely the latter. But the lack of response from Venkatesh was worrying me.

My scheduled monthly haircut was delayed due to my travels by over two weeks. I seldom change barbers. My hair was already becoming unruly and I was anxious to get my hair cut. My appointment for the hair cut was fixed for Wednesday, the 25th March, 2020. What followed was unprecedented.

On Tuesday the 24th, our Prime Minister announced that there would be a country-wide lockdown from the following midnight for a period of 21 days. This measure was to contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country by maintaining social distancing.

While all the family members were in an overdrive to stock essentials required for the period of the lockdown, I was worried about my haircut. Will Venkateshwara Hair- Cutting Salon too be shut?

In the days that followed, the Government announced certain services considered essential, which were exempt from the lockdown. My prayers went unanswered. I did not find hair-cutting services listed under the essentials category.

In the privacy of my bathroom, I thought I will attempt trimming my hair that appeared overgrown around my scalp and temples. I was having a problem co-ordinating the scissors based on the reflection in the mirror. I trimmed the hair on the right side of my head. Now the left looked disproportionate. I addressed the growth on the left. I pursued my mission to strike a balance.

I noticed that there was more hair dropping on the floor than I originally intended to. Then I committed a fatal mistake. Unable to see the rear of my head, I took the help of a hand-held mirror.

What followed was a total disaster. I urgently needed a second opinion to assess the damage. On seeing me, the manner my wife covered her mouth to muffle a scream said it all. My argument against total lockdown of the country has now changed to extension of the lockdown.

I am not inclined to display the results of my DIY (Do It Yourself) approach to cutting hair. In spite of covering my near entire face with a face mask, my wife is observing 'husband distancing' either until my hair grows back to its original length or Venkateshwara Hair Cutting Salon is back in business for damage control. Whichever happens earlier !

Three more test positive for COVID-19 in Mandya; one discharged from Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 13- Three more persons have tested positive for Coronavirus in Mandya, taking the total number of positive cases to 8.

In a media bulletin release by Health and Family Welfare Department this noon, three new cases have bene confirmed. P237 a 60-year-old female from Malavalli, Mandya and a contact of P179 (mother), P238, an 8-year-old girl child from Malavalli and a contact of P179 (daughter), P239, 18-year-old male, also from Malavalli and a contact of P179 (sister's son) have been tested positive. All the positive cases have been isolated at the designated COVID-19 hospital in Mandya. With this, the total number of positive cases in Karnataka has risen to 247 with 59 people getting discharged and 182 active cases. There has been six deaths so far.

In Mysuru, one more person was discharged from COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road. In a media communication, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that the patient, an employee of Jubilant Generics, has been discharged as he is healthy and has shown no signs of Coronavirus.

In a letter, the 35-year-old patient, now healthy, has thanked the District Administration and the doctors and nurses for treating him with utmost care at the hospital.

More focus on Coronavirus may divert concentration on subjects: DDPU Geetha

Mysuru, Apr. 13- Students should make use of lockdown period by concentrating more on their subjects rather than wasting time unnecessarily by getting more into Coronavirus, said G.R. Geetha, DDPU, Mysuru district.

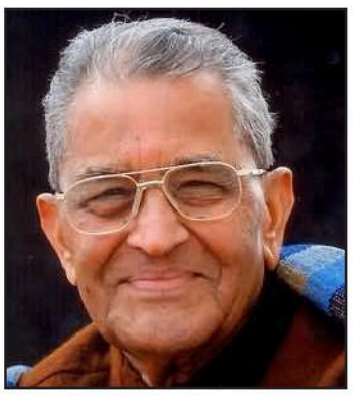
"Owing to postponement of English exam due to Coronavirus lockdown, students are not able to focus on studies, which the Board fears would affect their overall pass percentage and also performance in CET and related examinations. The Department is now planning to help students by holding a few classes before holding exams," Geetha said and requested students to make use of holidays to get good marks.

Geetha said: "Students should focus more on subjects instead of worrying about Coronavirus which may divert their concentration and hit preparation for the forthcoming entrance exams. I request students not to panic and make use of vacation to maximum extent. If they keep watching more on Coronavirus, they may forget what they have studied. Awareness on Coronavirus is enough. They should concentrate on CET, NEET and other such entrance exams which will be tough. Parents should also help their children."

Dr. G. Sridhar, Founder of Deeksha, said: "Given that competitive exams have been postponed to the last week of May, students now can utilise this time to prepare to the best of their abilities. Major subjects like Maths, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology typically have about 30 chapters each. With the time ahead of them, students can target completing one chapter per day and still have plenty of time to revise and take extra mock tests."

Veteran Congress leader M.V. Rajasekharan dies in Bengaluru at 91

Bengaluru, Apr. 13- Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister M.V. Rajasekharan passed away at a hospital in Bengaluru today after prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 91. The Congress leader was ailing from old-age related diseases. He is survived by his wife Girija Rajasekharan, two sons and two daughters.He had served as the Union Minister of State for Planning and Statistics in the Manmohan Singh Government in 2004.Rajasekharan debuted in electoral politics in 1967, winning the Kanakapura Parliamentary Constituency.



Born in Maralawadi in Kanakapura, he pursued Bachelor in arts from the Maharaja's College in Mysore. As a student leader, he was part of the Indian Freedom Struggle and was also associated with various Farmers' Associations before joining the Mysore Pradesh Youth Congress in 1966.

The nonagenarian leader was a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa condoled the death of Rajasekharan and remembered him as a politician with "simplicity, humility and great maturity."

The CM also noted that Rajasekharan, son-in-law of former CM S. Nijalingappa, was an authority on rural economy and had set up an institute to study rural development. "He was known for value-based politics," said Yediyurappa.

Rajasekharan also has the unique distinction of being a Member of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the Upper House of the Karnataka Legislative Council. In 2017, the veteran Congress leader surprised his party when he wrote an open letter praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the BJP won the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Assembly elections.

Condolence meet

A meeting was held at Congress Office in Mysuru this morning to condole the death of veteran Congress leader M.V. Rajasekharan. A portrait of the deceased leader was garlanded on the occasion in the presence of Party District President Dr. B.J. Vijay Kumar, City President R. Murthy, Secretary Shivanna and others.

Licence of four fair price shops suspended in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr.13- In a crackdown on fair price shops indulging in unfair practices, Food and Civil Supplies Department has suspended the licence of four shops in Mysuru district.

In a press release, Food and Civil Supplies Department Joint Director P. Shivanna said that the Department had supplied rations to all fair price shops enough for two months (April and May)to be distributed one time in advance to ration card holders in the wake of COVID-19 lockdown.

But following complaints of irregularities, the Department staff inspected some fair price shops, during which it was discovered that a few ration shops indulged in unfair practices including illegal collection of money from the beneficiaries.

Now the licence of four shops-Sri Lakshmikantha fair price shop (No.123), Hebbal (for forcing card holders to buy soaps and agarbathi), Sri Ramalingachowdeshwari fair price shop (No.368), K.T. Street, Devaraja Mohalla (for collecting Rs.20 from every ration card holder during distribution of ration), Sri Karnataka Ladies Credit Cooperative Society fair price shop (No.289), Kyathamaranahalli Road, Nazarbad and Sri Vittala fair price shop,Gejjiganahalli, Biligere Hobli, Nanjangud Taluk (for cheating card holders in weight) have been suspended, Food and Civil Supplies Department press release said.

VOICE OF THE READER

Doorstep banking need of the hour

Sir,

During the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown, banking services becomes essential and the Government is making all efforts to provide best possible facilities to the general public. All the banking activities are going on as usual but people reaching the banks or withdrawing cash at ATMs are challenges.

Most of the migrant workers, senior citizens and pensioners are not in a position to draw the required cash due to logistic issues. Also many of them cannot avail technology supported services due to lack of knowledge and hence depend on third party assistance which is not advisable.

On the other hand, for majority of population everyday existence depends on hard cash transactions. In the face of these difficult circumstances, the Banking industry as a whole should step up, become proactive and help the people in need with measures which are efficient and simple to implement.

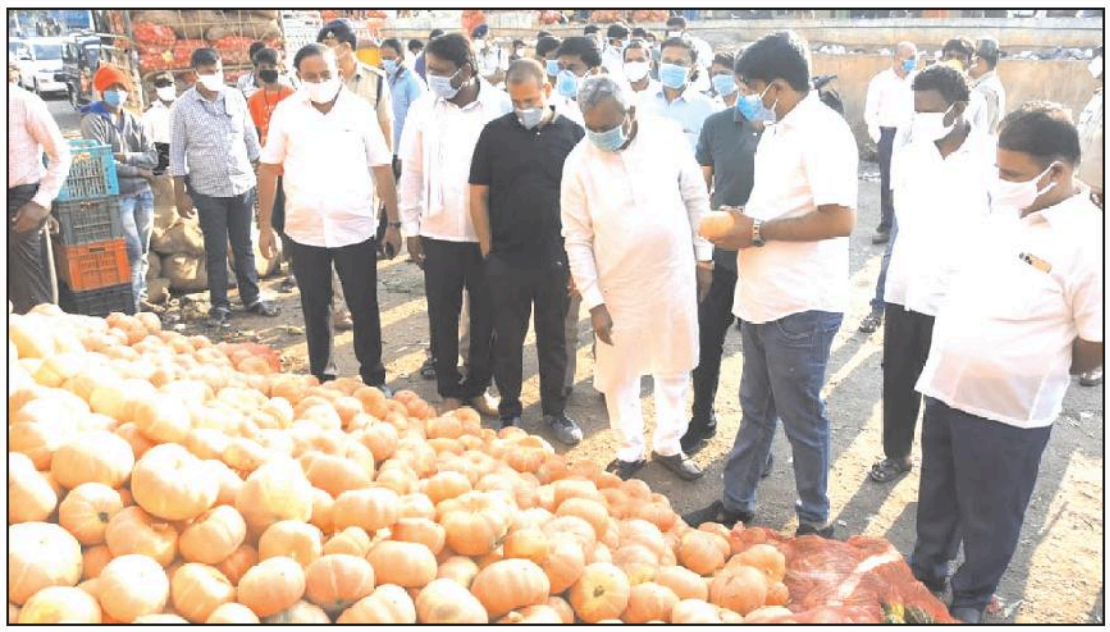
Appointing Banking Correspondents (BCs) with mini ATM (hand-held machines) in urban areas who could be positioned at regular intervals of distance that one can walk up to easily would help general public withdraw or deposit money to pay bills.

Action should be initiated immediately by the Finance Ministry, Government of India, to direct all the banks to implement such measures as early as possible.

On earlier instances, BCs were appointed only to cover and service rural areas but now the need to appoint them in urban and metropolitan cities also has risen. Banking services should be considered as essential services and Bankers must also be considered indispensable like the doctors, nurses, Police personnel etc., as they continue to be on duty even in the face of very difficult times as this.

— Dr. S. T. Ramachandra
General Manager (Retd.),
Canara Bank
Bengaluru 11.4.2020

Cold storage to be built at Mysuru APMC for storing fruits, vegetables: Minister



Mysuru,Apr.13- With reports of many farmers destroying their farm produce in fields itself after being unable to transport them to the markets and also failing to find buyers due to COVID-19 lockdown, Co-operation Minister S.T. Somashekar said that the Government would consider building of a cold storage at APMC in Mysuru to preserve perishable items such as fruits and vegetables.

Speaking to presspersons after inaugurating the disinfectant tunnel at the APMC yard on Nanjangud road here on Saturday, Somashekar said that he has directed the authorities to maintain hygiene at the APMC Market and also to provide all civic amenities.

Stating that he was aware of some farmers destroying their standing crops out of frustration triggered by the lockdown regulations, Somashekar said he has directed the officials not to stop vehicles carrying farm produce at any point for any reason.

Admitting that there is a lack of proper storage facilities in the State, he said that a cold storage will be built at the APMC Yard in the city that enables farmers to preserve fruits, vegetables and other perishable farm products.

Asserting that his first priority is to address agro-marketing issues, he said that the farmers can sell their produce through HOPCOMS.MP Pratap Simha,MLA L.Nagendra,DC Abhiram G. Sankar,SP C.B.Ryshyanth,DCP Dr.A.N.Prakash Gowda,BJP Leader H.V.Rajiv and other officials were present.

Apart from ragi, mix of natural roots, fruits helps develop immunity

Mysuru, Apr. 13- Although there is no disputing the fact that consumption of ragi-based food helps in developing immunity against diseases, several food experts have suggested that it is equally important to look at other natural foods for improving body immunity.

With COVID-19 pandemic creating havoc across the globe, ragi, a staple food of Southern Karnataka, is gaining popularity among people.

Even as medical experts suggest that developing immunity to novel Coronavirus is crucial for recovery of patients infected with the disease, ragi, as a staple food, is being much sought after. However, some medical experts are of the opinion that depending on ragi alone is not enough and consumption of other natural foods, especially roots and fibres, too is vital for improving immunity levels.

G. Krishna Prasad, Founder of 'Sahaja Samrudha,' an organic farmers' network in city said that it was important to consume natural foods such as roots, fibres and greens for improving immunity levels.

Noting that in the past, there was delicacy and variety in the food habits of rural people, he said that with urban influence, the food habits have changed and people living in rural areas, especially those belonging to the working class, have limited

themselves to just rice and dal.

Pointing out that with less consumption of vegetables and fruits, the food habits have kept changing, with little importance being given for nutrient-rich food varieties of the past.

Bemoaning the increasing use of chemical fertilisers in farming, Krishna Prasad said that the use of chemicals in almost all agricultural processes such as preservation, storing, stacking and transportation has been a cause of concern.

Advocating the use of roots, fibrous food and greens as a healthy diet, he said that natural foods will help in blood purification.Ruing that staple and nutrient-rich food of the past in rural areas has gone into oblivion with the advent of modern day food recipes, he said that millets make for nutrient-rich food.Regretting that we have almost stopped consumption of roots and fibres, he maintained that guava is a more nutritious fruit than apple.

He also said that other local varieties such as Coorg Orange and Bananas must come back on food tables and it is wrong to say that ragi alone is the staple food that helps in building immunity against diseases.K.C. Raghu, a food expert from Bengaluru, said that although Ragi has the power to develop immunity, having ragi alone will not be enough as it does not have all nutrients.

Stressing on the need for having a nutrient-rich diet, he said that it was not advisable to have a food habit that goes against the demands of nature. He further said that having readily digestible foods will have an adverse impact on our digestive system.

Statue Circle Silenced

The erstwhile Hardinge Circle, now Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Circle with the backdrop of Chamundi Hill, sports a deserted look thanks to COVID-19 outbreak and the resultant lockdown. Locals prefer to call it R-Gate (Aru Gate) because six (aru in Kannada) gates converge in the Circle leading to six main roads of Mysuru city. The western road leading to the Palace and City Bus Station is called the Albert Victor Road. The two northern roads are called Bengaluru-Nilgiri Road as they are both one-way-twins leading to Bengaluru. The southern road is called Nilgiri Road which goes to Ooty. The eastern road is called Mirza Road and it goes to Postal Training Center in Nazarbad. The southeastern road is called LokranjanMahal Road and it goes to the Mysuru Zoo and Karanji Lake. [Pic by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

Police force in Mysuru battle Coronavirus

(Continued from page 1)

They are everywhere. On the roads warning and checking violators, markets ensuring social distancing is maintained, helping poor and migrants to get food supplied by volunteers and also maintaining round-the-clock security at the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

Duty-bound, these Policemen hardly get time to spend moments with their family members and loved ones. But they have to face this challenge. Spending time on deserted roads, standing amidst barricades in the April sun, continuously standing at the same place for 12 hours and sometimes doing double shifts. These men in uniform risk their lives to keep all of us safe.

It is convenient and easy for someone to think that Policemen work as they get salary, they are absolutely wrong. Their difficulties and hardship can only be experienced. Policemen are expected to perform in extremely difficult conditions and it is the bounden duty of all of us to thank the Police force for their self-less service. Some of the Policemen even have turned creative. Wearing red colour helmet that is shaped like the Coronavirus, they are sending out a message that the virus kills but staying at home does not.

Many in Mysuru are abandoning pets

(Continued from page 1)

According to them, the number of calls related to abandoning of pets before the pandemic was four to five per month, but now it has shot up by 200 percent. The increase in number of calls could be seen as a fallout of the World Health Organisation (WHO) advisory that the virus may be transmitted through animals. The WHO later withdrew its controversial advisory.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some coronaviruses cause cold-like illnesses in people, while others cause illness in certain types of animals, such as cattle, camels, and bats. Some coronaviruses, such as canine and feline coronaviruses, only infect animals and do not infect humans, states the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to take care of stray animals as they are starve due to the lockdown. BJP leader and animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi has urged the Police to let animal welfare workers and willing volunteers feed the animals.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	3,555
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,539
Persons isolated in hospital	:	38
Persons completed 14-day isolation	:	1,978
Total samples tested	:	997
Samples found negative	:	949
Total active positive cases	:	48
Persons cured / discharged	:	10
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	247
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	6
Total positive cases in India	:	7,987
Death toll so far in India	:	308

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

STAY at home PRAY at home
SINCE 1948 CYCLE
everyone has a reason to pray

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